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SENATE MEMORIAL 31

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Gerald P. Ortiz y Pino

A MEMORIAL

CONVEYING THE SYMPATHY OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO TO THE
FAMILIES OF THE YOUNG WOMEN MURDERED NEAR THE CITY OF JUAREZ IN
THE STATE OF CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO, AND ENCOURAGING INCREASED NEW
MEXICO INVOLVEMENT IN BRINGING AN END TO THESE CRIMES.

WHEREAS, since 1993, the Mexican border city of Ciudad
Juarez and the state of Chihuahua have been plagued with the
abduction, sexual assault and brutal murders of more than four
hundred girls and women, many of whom are under twenty-five
years of age; and

WHEREAS, many of the victims are not yet positively
identified, dozens of young women fitting the profile of
previous victims are missing and many of the crimes show signs
of being connected to one or more serial killers; and

WHEREAS, many of the abductions occur in broad daylight,

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1 and, as a result, many women in Juarez report being afraid to
2 leave their homes; and

3 WHEREAS, many of these victims had been employed in
4 *maquiladoras* or had been training to work in them and
5 disappeared going to or from work or training, and the policies
6 of many *maquiladoras* concerning transportation and locking out
7 tardy employees are alleged to be contributing factors in these
8 disappearances; and

9 WHEREAS, numerous international corporations operating the
10 *maquiladoras*, including some corporations based in the United
11 States, benefit greatly from the labor force available in
12 Juarez and Chihuahua; and

13 WHEREAS, New Mexico and Chihuahua are sister states,
14 sharing a common cultural heritage and enjoying long ties in
15 trade and commerce; and

16 WHEREAS, New Mexico law enforcement personnel have
17 provided training to the police agencies in Chihuahua charged
18 with preventing and investigating these crimes, even though
19 numerous agents and officials of the Mexican police have been
20 implicated in these crimes themselves; and

21 WHEREAS, the federal bureau of investigation has stated
22 that one or more killers might be crossing the United States
23 border in connection with these crimes; and

24 WHEREAS, arrests, detentions and tortures of uninvolved
25 suspects, including some United States citizens, have been

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1 carried out with little or no evidence, while numerous leads
2 and eyewitness accounts that could have led to the arrest of
3 actual perpetrators have not been adequately pursued; and

4 WHEREAS, support and pressure from American and
5 international corporations operating *maquiladoras* on the border
6 could help bring resolution to the crimes and promote an
7 atmosphere of democracy and rule by law in the state of
8 Chihuahua;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
10 OF NEW MEXICO that the hundreds of unsolved abductions, rapes
11 and murders of young women in Chihuahua, especially in Ciudad
12 Juarez, that have taken place since 1993 be condemned and that
13 sincere condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims
14 be expressed; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor and the attorney
16 general of New Mexico be requested to express concern to their
17 Mexican counterparts about these crimes and offer whatever
18 assistance is needed to put an end to this shameful plague and
19 to ensure that fair and proper police investigations and
20 judicial proceedings be carried out in connection with this
21 crime wave; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state investment council
23 be requested to research whether United States businesses
24 operating *maquiladoras* in Chihuahua are included in the
25 investment portfolios of any of the state permanent funds,

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1 including the member contribution fund as provided in the
2 Public Employees Retirement Act and the educational retirement
3 fund, and provide a report to the interim legislative health
4 and human services committee by September 2005 on the extent of
5 such investments; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to
7 conduct a thorough review of all existing relationships between
8 New Mexico law enforcement agencies and those in Chihuahua to
9 determine whether international human rights standards and
10 principles are being followed during law enforcement training
11 and whether efficient background checks and criminal vetting
12 procedures are being performed before offering training to
13 Mexican law enforcement personnel; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that May 5, 2005 be declared as a
15 "Day of Solidarity with the Women of Chihuahua" in the senate;
16 and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the governor and the attorney general of New
19 Mexico, the mayor of Ciudad Juarez and the governor of the
20 state of Chihuahua.